

BIG SANDY NEWS.

Aut inveniam viam, aut faciam.

VOLUME XXV NUMBER 5

LOUISA, LAWRENCE COUNTY, KENTUCKY, OCTOBER 1, 1909.

M. F. CONLEY, Publisher

HORRIBLE CRIME.

Family of Six People Were Murdered.

Scene of the Terrible Slaughter Was on the Headwaters of Big Sandy, in Virginia.

Sometime during Tuesday night of last week, fiends in human form entered the home of Mrs. Bettie Justice on Laurel Fork of Knox creek, about one mile from Hurley, and, after securing a sum of money, said to be about \$2,400, killed Mrs. Justice, her daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. George Meadows and their three babes. The house was then fired to hide the evidence of the crime.

Some of the victims were shot to death, but the fiends used other weapons to compass the death of their victims. All the bodies except that of Meadows were incinerated but a search revealed Meadows' charred remains a short distance from the ruins. His skull had been crushed with some blunt instrument.

The object of the fearful crime was robbery, it being known that Mrs. Justice had a large sum of money about the house. On the day before Meadows had drawn about \$400 from the Ritter Lumber Company for some lumber and it is presumed that this fact was also known.

It is stated that Mrs. Justice secured \$2,000 from an insurance company that carried a risk on the life of her first husband. Justice, it is claimed, was killed by Mrs. Justice's father some time ago. Mrs. Justice married a man by the name of Blankenship but did not live with him long, and was known in the neighborhood by the name of Justice.

This appalling tragedy has aroused the section in which it occurred as it has never been stirred before. Large posses of men from points along the N. & W. railroad and from the counties adjoining Beckham, the county where the awful deed was committed, have been in pursuit of the fiends. Several men have been arrested, but so far the crime has not been fixed upon anyone.

Come Again, Buckles.

A. O. Buckles, who lives on R. Holbert's farm near Rineyville, is the boss corn cutter in Hardin county. This year he, with twelve hands, cut 115 acres, amounting to 1,400 shocks in four days. That's certainly going some.—Elizabethtown News.

Well, let's see: Twelve hands in four days will do as much as one hand in 48 days. Cutting 1,400 shocks in 48 days is equal to cutting not quite thirty shocks per day.

Yes, "that's certainly going some." But listen: On the John Lockwood farm, seven miles south of Lockwood station on the C. & O. railway, Pick Lockwood, on a wager cut and shocked one hundred shocks of corn between daylight and dark. This is a fact, amply attested. The corn grown in the Lockwood bottom is noted for its large size.

Wolcott Again.

Another dupe was in Louisa this week investigating his title to 400 acres of land lying "in the Walnut Grove addition to the town of Louisa." This latest sucker is an elderly, well appearing man from near Greencastle, Ind. He bought his pig in a poke and then came to see if he liked it. What he threw away his good money for is covered by the infamous Wolcott survey, that perennial swindle which has separated so many men from so much hard cash. The gentleman from Indiana returned home on Wednesday, knowing more than when he came.

The Last of the Season.

The last Sunday excursion on the Big Sandy division was run on Sunday last. The day was fine and the crowd from Pikeville and along the road was very large. There were no fatalities this season, and the conduct of the excursionists was almost uniformly good.

C. Crane Buying Right of Way.

C. Crane, of Cincinnati, has been buying right of way on Buffalo creek, Logan county, for a large timber operation which he will start soon. Buffalo creek runs into Guyan river about thirteen miles from Logan. This creek is about twenty-five miles long and contains the only absolutely virgin forest in the Guyan valley. It contains many thousand acres that has not been timbered at all and consists of walnut, poplar, oak and other valuable forest timber. Besides timber it is also a rich coal field which will be developed soon.

Mr. Crane has bought practically all the right of way, or about three-fourths, and that being what was counted the most difficult to purchase.

C. Crane & Co. will lay a steel track, as for a wide gauge railroad. The job will last six or eight years.

Ironton Postmaster Removed.

Postmaster John Strobel has been removed from office by a Government Inspector, and Assistant Postmaster R. S. Wiseman placed in charge. Congressman Johnson has recommended ex-County Treasurer Jere Davidson for the vacancy. Strobel has been Postmaster for 12 years, and his removal has caused a sensation.

Saturday evening the Government Postoffice Inspector happened into the Ironton postoffice and found Postmaster Strobel short in his account to the amount of \$1,400, and at once dismissed him, placing Assistant Postmaster Wiseman in charge of the office. Several months ago the postmaster was short \$1,000 but made the amount good.

Entertained With Flinch.

In honor of Mrs. J. B. Hannah Mrs. P. L. Stewart entertained very handsomely with a flinch party on Wednesday evening. The company assembled early and played to a late hour, enjoying the games and delicious refreshments greatly.

Very much to their regret men were not "among those present," the pleasant affair having only ladies as participants.

NEW MARSHAL FOR LOUISA

James Vinson Elected to Succeed Dave Wellman, Who Skipped Out.

It became known about Thursday of last week that Dave Wellman, at that time City Marshal, was missing. Inquiry revealed the fact that he had been gone several days, leaving no word as to his whereabouts. On Thursday, however, his wife received a letter from him dated at Birmingham, Ala., in which he said he had left Louisa for good and would never return.

The news of his flight caused considerable excitement, and all sorts of rumors filled the air. Some of these may be true, but the only positively certain thing in this connection is that Wellman is gone, leaving his wife in destitute circumstances, with six children to support. Three of these children are by a former husband.

When it became known beyond a doubt that Wellman had absconded the City Council met in called session and elected James Vinson, a former jailer of this county, to succeed him. Mr. Vinson gave bond and at once entered upon the discharge of his duties. He is a sober, honest man, prudent and courageous, and will no doubt make an excellent officer.

Remarkable Guessing.

It will be remembered that for several days recently a big sunflower was shown in one of Nash & Herr's big windows. You were invited to buy something, each purchase entitling you to guess on the number of seeds in the flower, the one guessing the nearest to the exact number to get a pair of four dollar shoes. The seeds were counted on last Saturday night and the number was found to be 1853. It was also found that Wallace Millard and John Wade, of Louisa, had guessed the precise number of seeds. The prize was settled by Millard paying John a dollar and a half for his share.

M. E. Church Conference.

The Kentucky Conference of the M. E. Church closed at Maysville on Monday last. The following are the appointments for the Ashland district:

District Supt., J. M. Ackman. Ashland, First Church, J. I. Wean. Ashland, Second Church, Amon Borsling.

Blaine, W. M. Walker. Catlettsburg, A. H. Davis. East Point, J. A. Scott. Fullerton, J. S. Singleton. Gallup, Cyrus Riffle. Grayson, D. M. Carpenter. Greenup, C. B. Plummer. Louisa, Thomas Hanford.

Louisa Circuit, Chas. Moore. Olive Hill, G. W. Howes. Paintsville, J. M. Litteral. Pikeville, A. F. Felts. Pikeville Circuit, A. P. Wilson. Russell, E. H. Edwards. Russell Circuit, J. A. Williams. Salt Lick, J. A. Ragan. Salt Lick Circuit, C. N. Vaughan. Salyersville, W. G. Bradford. Toleboro, Bird Hughes. Vanceburg, O. J. Ragan. Vanceburg Circuit, H. D. Cooper. Wallingford, W. H. Munsey.

The next session of the Conference will be held at Paintsville.

The Coming Concert.

Lest you forget the NEWS will say that on Monday evening next at the court house the Columbia Concert Company, composed of five ladies and gentlemen, each of whom is a talented musician, will give a concert, in part for the benefit of the Southern Methodist Church of this city.

The program will consist of high class music, selected with the view of pleasing all lovers of good music, while the selections will be chosen also to please all tastes. The NEWS can and does guarantee that a concert of such excellence was never before heard in this city. All who are fond of good music will enjoy a decided treat by attending this concert, and will also assist a noble cause.

The NEWS has also been assured that perfect order will be maintained. In some previous public entertainments given here the audience has occasionally been disturbed by the actions of boys who probably knew no better, poor things, but no demonstrations of this sort will be permitted next Monday night.

Good Cattle Scarce and High.

Good quality feeding cattle are as scarce among marketing at all points at this time as they were a few months ago. Those who have well-bred young steers evidently feel that they are worth more at home, with a record corn crop in course of growth, than at market, says Drovers Journal. Feeder cattle buyers are confronted with a situation which possibly many had not anticipated. Those who did not stock their pastures with the relatively cheap steers available a few months ago, and who now come to market looking for good quality kinds, find that such grades can only be bought by competing with killers and paying killers' prices. A short time ago both corn and feeding cattle were considered too high in price. A few weeks hence the feeders may not stop to consider corn values, but may face a much higher cost of feeding steers.

Have Gone to Texas.

A. C. Pigg and family have gone to Houston, Texas, having left this city on Tuesday last for their future home. Mr. Pigg will pursue his profession as architect. He has had much experience in this vocation, and has an excellent reputation for skill and ability.

Mr. and Mrs. Pigg are very worthy, highly respected people, and their many Kentucky friends wish for them a pleasant and prosperous stay in the South.

Has Brought Suit.

T. J. Spencer, as administrator of the estate of his son, T. J. Spencer, Jr., has instituted suit in Johnson Circuit Court against the Northeast Coal Company for damages growing out of the death of his son who was killed in the early spring at the company's mines. C. B. Wheeler, of Ashland, and M. S. Burns, of Louisa, represent the plaintiff.

COUNTY UNIT BILL

Advocated by Hon. Jerome Prichard, of Boyd.

Candidate for State Senate Announces His Position on the Temperance Issue.

Hon. Jerome Prichard, of Boyd county, candidate for the State Senate, was in Louisa this week meeting the voters. Many of our older citizens almost felt that they had known him before, as he very much resembles his lamented brother, Hon. Keene F. Prichard, formerly a citizen of Louisa and a well known lawyer.

Mr. Prichard is a prosperous farmer and a man of more than ordinary ability. He is all that could be desired as a citizen, being clean in morals and upright in his life. He is outspoken on the liquor question and stands for the County Unit bill, which will be an issue in the next Legislature. Mr. Prichard does not to deceive any one as to his position on the question and he therefore announces that he is a temperance man. In the Senate he will support the County Unit bill. By voting for him you can practically cast a ballot for this desirable law yourself.

Mr. Prichard is not an office seeker. This nomination came to him unsolicited, but he feels that his election would enable him to be of service to his district and he has entered into the campaign just as earnestly as though the office of Senator were remunerative and highly desirable. He wants to win, now that he is in the race, and it remains to be seen whether the temperance people will be true to their colors. The issue is clearly defined and the race so made up that the only temperance vote you can cast in the Senatorial contest is for Prichard.

THE TOWN OF VAN LEAR.

Item as Sent Out From Baltimore About New Big Sandy Town.

Baltimore, Md., Sept. 26.—The Consolidation Coal Company is progressing with its plans for the proposed development of 30,000 acres of coal lands near Paintsville, Ky. It will expend about \$3,000,000 for its initial mining plant, including two power plants of 600 kilowatts capacity, standard gauge steam railroad, steel bridge over Big Sandy river 400 feet long with concrete piers, and other facilities.

The new town will be called Van Lear, for Mr. Van Lear Black, of Baltimore, who is interested in the company. Four hundred dwellings are already under construction, the houses to be wired for electricity and piped for sewage and water.

Contracts have been awarded M. G. Watson, of Louisa, for the construction of the railroad from Miller's Creek Junction, on the Big Sandy branch of the Chesapeake & Ohio railway, to the mines, and for the construction of the bridge over the Big Sandy river.

Contracts have also been awarded for the construction of the water-works and electric light plant. The company intends to develop its mines to a capacity of about 4,000 tons a day.

Wants the News.

In sending her subscription for the NEWS Mrs. A. C. Malatesta, formerly of Fullers, but now of New York, writes as follows:

You may let all my Kentucky friends know through the columns of your paper that my husband, son John and myself are all enjoying good health as well as enjoying visiting many places of note in New York City. With success to the NEWS. Very Respectfully, Mrs. A. C. Malatesta.

Our Legislative Candidate.

W. J. Vaughan, of Louisa, field worker for the State Sunday School Association, and recently nominated by the Democrats for State Representative, was in our city today, shaking hands with friends, renewing old acquaintances, and making new ones. No one was more surprised than was Mr. Vaughan when he received the news of his nomination. Truly "some are born to greatness, some achieve it, and others have it thrust upon them," and it was the latter with him, but he accepts this honor graciously, and goes in the battle with a vim, and with a determination to win. With the great efforts of his friends, who will rally about him and support him to a man, Mr. Vaughan expects to roll up a handsome majority on November 2nd. He is an exceptionally pleasant gentleman, and makes friends wherever he goes.—Ashland Independent.

Earthquake Startles Louisville.

An earthquake was distinctly felt in Louisville and Jefferson county, about 3:45 o'clock Monday morning. It was the most severe in the country and suburbs a few miles out of the city. The clerks at the office of the local Weather Bureau were kept busy that morning answering telephone inquiries of the disturbance.

Reports from various sections indicate that the disturbance was general through the Central States, as far west as St. Louis, Mo., and extending through Southern Indiana and Central and Western Kentucky. No serious damage was done, but in many places the people were frightened and fled from their homes. Several chimneys were leveled, doors, windows and chinaware were rattled, and buildings were shaken.

Rev. Reid Will Preach Sunday.

The Rev. W. L. Reid, pastor of the M. E. Church South, will hold services next Sunday, morning and evening. He is now domiciled at the parsonage, having come up from Catlettsburg on Thursday. Mr. Reid ranks high in the Western Virginia Conference as minister and man. His latest pastorate was in Catlettsburg, where he was very acceptable to his people and to the public. There should be a full attendance at the service next Sunday to welcome the new pastor. Much depends, both as to preacher and people, upon the kind of start which is made at the beginning of the Conference year. The impression made then upon both flock and shepherd counts for much.

Big Sandy Merchandise Company.

On the first of October, J. C. Adams, of the Alger Hotel, will resign from the management of this popular hostelry, and will be succeeded by Will Cecil. Mr. Adams has successfully conducted the business for several months, and is well liked by the entire public. Immediately upon Mr. Cecil assuming the management of the hotel, Mr. Adams will enter the store of the Big Sandy Merchandise Co., on Division street, of which he is a partner with Mr. Wellman, and doing an immense business through the Big Sandy valley, and at present have two salesmen on the road.—Catlettsburg Item.

Change in Produce Business.

F. B. Brown has sold his interest in the Big Sandy Produce Company to C. F. Millender, who has been one of the owners from the beginning. Mr. Millender will move his family to Louisa from Huntington. Mr. Brown has not yet decided what business he will engage in. We hope he will decide to remain in Louisa, as he is a good citizen. Louisa people are glad to have the Millender family back again.

Elected Officers.

The annual election of officers for Louisa Chapter No. 95, R. A. M., held September 24, resulted as follows: A. J. Conley, H. P. T. L. Muncester, K. A. M. Hughes, S. G. R. Burgess, C. of H. G. A. Nash, P. S. J. L. Carey, R. A. C. G. R. Lewis, M. S. V. H. G. Wellman, M. 2 V. E. C. Jenks, M. 1 V. S. J. Justice, Sec., C. C. Hill, Treas., N. D. Waldeck, Sentinel, H. B. Hewlett, Chaplain.

Charged With Murder.

Among the indictments found by the late grand jury is one charging Bob Hardy with the crime of murder. A few months ago an aged woman known as the widow Sloan was found dead in the yard of a house on Calnes Creek, about five miles from the town of Blaine. The coroner's jury found a verdict of death from unknown causes, but subsequent events aroused suspicion. This suspicion grew and strengthened until it was sufficient to cause Hardy to leave the neighborhood.

He lived at the house where Mrs. Sloan made her home, and he made no attempt to conceal his hatred of the woman. When last seen alive she was on the porch of the house, and shortly afterwards she was lying dead in the yard with, so it is said, a wound on her head, evidently made by a heavy blunt instrument. Those facts were developed before the grand jury and resulted in the finding of the indictment. When last heard from Hardy was in Greenup county.

Not Sustained.

In federal court at Huntington the charges of robbery which had been entered against deputy marshal Dan Cunningham were not sustained and the marshal was exonerated by the jury.

The woman who brought the charges, a Mrs. Bob Hunter, was convicted of illicit retailing of whiskey and was fined \$100.

It is reported that a number of people of prominence in Boone county, W. Va., where the Hunters reside, may be arrested for having taken part in formulating the charges against Cunningham.

Eloped and Were Married.

On Monday last Miss Alpha Riffe, daughter of W. J. Riffe, of Ratcliff, this county, and Howard Wilson, came to this city and were married at the residence of John Riffe, the Rev. H. B. Hewlett officiating. About the first of September Elva Riffe, a sister of Alpha, eloped with Bob Roberts and were married not far from her home. All these parties have gone to Holden, W. Va.

CIRCUIT COURT ADJOURNED.

Results in Some Important Cases During Past Week.

Circuit Court finally adjourned Thursday morning and Judge Hannah has gone home. The grand jury adjourned on Saturday last, having found 114 indictments, five of which are for felonies.

In the case of Arch Borders against the C. & O. railway for damage for personal injury the jury gave him \$1900. The jury failed to agree in the case of Arthur Preston against the same company for damage caused by the burning of his barn and its contents, alleged to have been caused by sparks from a locomotive.

The jury disagreed in the case of Dow McCoy, charged with burning William Thompson's barn, and McCoy has not yet been able to give bond.

The case against See Carter and Jonas Payne for stealing a ballot box in the school election in 1908 resulted in an acquittal.

Trust Company for Paintsville.

John C. Mayo, J. W. Auxler, F. M. Williams, John E. Buckingham, Jas. W. Turner and other stockholders of the Paintsville National Bank, together with H. M. Stafford, Judge A. J. Kirk, H. B. Rice, J. L. Patterson, C. T. Rule, J. P. Wells, D. J. Vance and other citizens, have organized a Trust Company for Paintsville. The new company will have a capital stock of \$50,000.00. H. M. Stafford will be president; Judge A. J. Kirk, vice-president; H. B. Rice, secretary and treasurer.

City Convention Called.

The Democrats of Louisa are called to meet in mass convention at the City hall on Wednesday evening, Oct. 6, 1909, to nominate candidates for City Council.

G. R. Burgess, Ch'n.